

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION; OVERSIGHT PLAN; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Committee on Agriculture: Met for organizational purposes.

The Committee approved the following: an Oversight Plan for the 109th Congress; and Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Secretary of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Force Protection. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Benjamin P. Riley III, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary (Protection) and Chairman, Combating Terrorism Technology Task Force; LTG. David F. Melcher, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of the Army; and LTG. James N. Mattis, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat and Development Command and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development, HQMC.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs held a hearing on Secretary of State. Testimony was heard from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Social Security Administration. Testimony was heard from Jo Anne B. Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, Veterans Affairs, and Related

Agencies held a hearing on Quality of Life. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Sgt. Major, Kenneth O. Preston, USA; Master Chief Petty Officer, Terry D. Scott, USN; Sgt. Major John L. Estrada, USMC; and Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray, USAF.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Continued hearings on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense budget request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary; and GEN Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

HOMELAND SECURITY NEEDS

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on National and Homeland Security: Meeting the Needs. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Began markup of H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005.

Will continue tomorrow.

SPY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 29, Spy Act.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality continued hearings entitled "Energy Policy Act of 2005: Ensuring Jobs for Our Future with Secure and Reliable Energy." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

"TERRORIST RESPONSE TO IMPROVED U.S. FINANCIAL DEFENSES"

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Terrorist Responses to Improved U.S. Financial Defenses." Testimony was heard from Juan C. Zarate, Assistant Secretary, Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

SAFE DRUG ABUSE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources held a hearing entitled "Is There Such a Thing as Safe Drug Abuse?" Testimony was heard

from Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., Commissioner, Department of Health, Baltimore, Maryland; and public witnesses.

OMB MANAGEMENT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Improving Internal Controls—A Review of Changes to OMB Circular A-123.” Testimony was heard from Christopher B. Burnham, Acting Under Secretary, Management, Assistant Secretary, Resource Management, and Chief Financial Officer, Department of State; John P. Higgins, Jr., Inspector General, Department of Education; Otto J. Wolff, Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary, Administration, Department of Commerce; and Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO.

DHS—BUILDING INFORMATION ANALYSIS CAPABILITY

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment held a hearing entitled: “The Proposed Fiscal Year 2006: Building the Information Analysis Capability of DHS.” Testimony was heard from Patrick Hughes, Acting Under Secretary, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN: NEXT STEPS

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on United States Policy Toward Iran: Next Steps. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION; TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats approved for full Committee action H. Res. 108, Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on An Overview of Transatlantic Relations Prior to President Bush's Visit to Europe. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IRAN STATE-SPONSORED TERROR

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-proliferation held a joint hearing on Iran: A Quarter-Century of State-Sponsored Terror. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—INDIAN TRUST FUND LAWSUIT STATUS

Committee on Resources: Held an oversight hearing on the Status of the Indian Trust Fund Lawsuit, Cobell v. Norton. Testimony was heard from Jim Cason, Acting Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and a public witness.

OVERSIGHT—PAPER INDUSTRY ENERGY COSTS

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a joint oversight hearing on the Impact of High Energy Costs on the Competitiveness of America's Pulp and Paper Industry. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL R&D BUDGET OVERVIEW

Committee on Science: Held a hearing An Overview of the Federal R&D Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Testimony was heard from John Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology; Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy; Arden Bement Director, NSF; Charles McQueary, Under Secretary, Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security; and Theodore Kassinger, Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; OVERSIGHT PLAN

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Approved the following: Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget; and an Oversight Plan for the 109th Congress.

OVERSIGHT—AGENCIES BUDGETS AND PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2006: EPA AND NOAA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources held an oversight hearing on the following Agency Budgets and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2006: EPA; and the NOAA. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the EPA: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator, Water; and Thomas P. Dunne, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Solid Waste and Emergency Response; and Richard W. Spinrad, Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Testimony was heard from R. James

Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

THREATS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to continue hearings on Threats. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the National Science Foundation, 9 a.m., SD-138.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 for the Emergency Supplemental, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: to resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine rising health care costs and the impact on future generations relating to Medicare and Medicaid, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine National Park Service's implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, and Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine democracy in retreat in Russia, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the price of drug reimportation, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine an overview of the Government Accountability Office high-risk list, focusing on ensuring Congressional oversight by bringing attention to government-wide management challenges and high-risk program areas, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S.256, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the President's budget request for

fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration, 10 a.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Office of the Inspector General, Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, on the Secretary of Defense, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security, hearing on Department of Homeland Security Management and Operations, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Committee on Armed Services: to continue hearings on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense budget request, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget: hearing on Domestic Entitlements: Meeting the Needs, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: to continue mark up of H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005, 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: hearing entitled: "A Review of the Administration's FY2006 Health Care Priorities," 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "The Role of Technology in Achieving a Hard Deadline for the DTV Transition," 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services: to consider pending Committee business, and to hold a hearing on Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform: to consider the following: Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget; and H. Res. 41, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States; followed by a hearing entitled "Wounded Army Guard Reserve Forces: Increasing the Capacity to Care," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations: hearing on the International Relations Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, joint hearing on the North Korean Nuclear Challenge: Is There a Way Forward? 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on H.R. 683, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.